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A  
LETTER

FROM AN

Old Dicarded MINISTER

TO

One lately Disgrac'd in China. K

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*Nemo Mortalium Omnibus Horis Sapit.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed by J. Tnach, near Charing-Cross, and  
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Westminster. (Price one Shilling.)

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# LETTER

ON THE

One Halfpenny

None the less



LONDON:

Printed by J. Smith, near Chancery Lane, and  
Sold at the Principal Shops in London and  
Windsor. Price one penny.

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TO THE  
P U B L I C K.

*A*S Ministers are all over Europe, as well as in China, a Translation of the following LETTER may not be disagreeable; which, I presume, is as Authentick as any Extract from the Hague.

EDITOR.

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Editor.

A. L.

A. L.





# LETTER, &c.

My LORD,

**A** Man of the strongest Capacity is not able to foresee the Events of all his Actions, and very often falls unthinkingly, into such Steps as prove at last his total Ruin; and since you

you and I know it, by severe Experience, let us, by way of Humanity, point out to our Successors, those Dangerous Rocks on which Ministers split; *Fælix quem Faciunt aliena pericula Cautum.*

I have often been at Loss, whether to think it more Strange, that I, who was planted in a kindly Soil, and supported by a Royal Oak for Twenty Years, should not have taken sufficient Root, to Support myself until Time and Infirmities had  
 reduc'd

reduc'd me to Atoms; but should in the most flourishing State, loaded with Boughs and Branches, be torn up by that Whirlwind *Vox Populi*.

But I now find those Boughs and Branches, which I took for my greatest Security and Ornament, suck'd too much Nourishment from the Body and Root, and expos'd me to the Violence of the Wind. Thus our Danger often arises from that Point, where we think ourselves the most Secure: Or  
you,

you, my Lord, who steer'd a quite different Course, you set sail in a lovely Ship, loaded with Treasure, full of Men, with a favourable Wind you took the Helm, and like a Skilful Pilot pointed to the happy Port; but there arose a Storm, and beat about the unsteady Rudder, which at last became too Strong for one Man to hold: But your Lordship in pursuit of Honour, desirous to continue sole Manager, was thrown down by its Violence; and thus



thus the Helm was left to a scrambling Crew, who all desirous of it, neglected the Sails, and how the Ship will fare we must leave to the next *Dutch* Mail to decide.

I shall as near as I can, write you a Story, which a Friend of mine told me; it was of some little State, modell'd like ours! It made so strong an Impression on me, that I believe I shall give it to you pretty just.

A Prime Minister, to attach his Master more strong-

ly

B

ly

ly to him, and by that Means secure his Post more firmly, first persuades him, that the Royal Interest was separate from that of the People; and to show his attachment to the Crown, he preferr'd the Prerogative to Popularity: The Monarch adopting this mischievous Maxim, immediately declar'd a separate Interest; this alarmed the People to such a Degree, as made them suspect even Popular Laws, when propos'd by the Crown,  
and

and made them diligent on all Occasions, to oppose that destructive Minister: This created great Clamour and Uneasiness, and he was oblig'd to be too liberal of those Supplies granted for the Exigencies of Government, to calm this Tumult; which created still greater Demands for the Government: Some neighbouring States finding in what a number of Streams the Waters of that Government was oblig'd to flow, thought by threatening to

turn the Fountain, into another Channel, to bring Grist to their Mill: They plundered their Ships, us'd their Sailors barbarously, invaded their Natural Right, to freedom of Trade and Navigation.

The Minister sensible that his weak Sinews were not strung for War, bore this Treatment with the greatest Resignation; until this injur'd People, grown tir'd with receiving Pensions in one Pocket, and paying it in  
Taxes



Taxes out of the other, for Nothing; rouz'd up a Spirit of Revenge and Abhorrence to this barbarous Pacification. Here was a glorious Opportunity, for the Minister to establish himself in the People's Affection: But No! Different Maxims prevail'd, and the Hopes of soon patching a Peace by an inoffensive War was thought the most eligible.

Useless Squadrons Sail'd, numerous Pacifick Armies rais'd, to convince the Enemy we would not hurt them,  
and

and make the Hasty, Headstrong People, repent of the War: This had a very different Effect from what was imagin'd; instead of crying out for Peace, this brave People cry'd out, *Revenge on the Minister*; thus was he blown down from the Penacle of his Glory, now to lament the unexpected Effects of his Mis-conduct, in Obscurity.

Let us now see, my Lord, by what unhappy Steps you got and lost the Reins of Go-

Government, as I intend this for the Benefit of Posterity, I shall with the greatest Candor, lay open every Part of your Mis-conduct, to show more clearly, that sudden Tempest which blew you down.

Had you strictly adher'd to that Party which brought me to the last Gasps, you would have totally routed our Forces, and brought in all your Friends to take Possession of the Field of Battle, whose Interest it would have

have then been to Support you in your Conquest ; which must have render'd my Friends inoffensive Enemies, except what few Deserters you would have chose to admit into your Corps. But what is now the Consequence of a different Conduct? As soon as your old Allies saw a Difference arising between your Friends and mine, they chose to join the old Enemy, rather than Trust a Defenter any more: And 'tis even become opprobrious



bious and despicable, to be your Supporter.

There is a Maxim in Politics, almost as old as the Creation, to Support Power by the same Means you obtain'd it; and where the Strength of a Lion is wanting, you should have apply'd the Fox's Cunning; by making it equally their Interest to Support you, as it was to bring you in: For could you reasonably expect, after a long Opposition to me and my Friends, that they would

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Support you, in that superlative Degree, without some superior Merit or Artifice?

You have lately been in Battle, sure you are Soldier enough to know if your Army makes the Enemy give way, 'tis not then Time to begin Plundering; and a small Detachment going over to the Enemy, may change the Fate of the Day: And can it be thought that they will admit of one of those Deserters to be their General, without superior Merit?

I can-

I cannot doubt of your Lordship's Capacity, but you surely have ill apply'd it; the laying a Plan of Operations, is certainly the General's Duty, which you have done to a Miracle; rais'd the drooping Head of the House of *A—a*, which to all human Appearance, was totally given over; and with the joint Assistance of that Power and other Allies, made a Counterpoize to that formidable House of *B——n*, which I dreaded we must have sustained

stain'd solely; and if that  
 had been the Case, the im-  
 mense Treasure which the  
 Enemy expended in the Land  
 Service, would have been em-  
 ploy'd at Sea, and distress'd  
 us to the last Degree; and  
 we must have groan'd under  
 the Burthen of an expensive  
 and destructive War, or ac-  
 cept such Terms as the E-  
 nemy would be pleas'd to of-  
 fer. And tho' you wanted a  
 perfect Execution of your  
 Plan, every true hearted *Chi-  
 nese* must be pleas'd with the  
 one,



one, and lament the other.

But notwithstanding the General's Part was acted so well, the ministerial General was still wanting; the Ways and Means to Support the Operations; the want of which, is leaning on another Man's Shoulders, should he give way, accidentally or artfully, you must tumble to the Ground: And who can you expect to raise you up? Friends whom you forsaken? No, they will become your bitterest Enemies; Enemies whom

whom you have perfecuted,  
and imperiously over-rule; no,  
they can never forget nor  
forgive you: Who is the  
Friend of the Crown? the  
Friend that can ferve the  
Crown.

The Prerogative in *China*  
is greater or lefs, according  
to the Minifters Ability; and  
he will have the greateft Sway  
in the Cabinet Council who  
has the greateft Influence in  
States afsembled, which can  
be obtain'd by purfuing fuch  
Steps as will convince the  
foundeft

soundest Judgment, of your acting right and for their Benefit.

A Man of your Lordship's Capacity, cannot be long finding out proper Steps; such Steps will so strongly settle the Affection of the Representatives of the People on you, as will make them think the National Welfare almost dependant on yours: It will be the Interest and Happiness of the Crown, to entrust the Publick Welfare and Liberty, to one who has  
gain'd

gain'd the Confidence of his National Council: And his present Majesty's Prudence and Goodness, will never leave publick Affairs to one who has not merited that general Confidence.

For there are often Con-  
junctures, when the Grand  
Council must confide in the  
Crown, by our very Consti-  
tution of Government, such  
as declaring War, or make-  
ing Peace, &c. And how  
slowly must publick Business  
go on, if not a total Stop  
put



put to it, when there is a  
Distrust of the *Publick*  
*Minister*.

This shows how necessary a  
mutual Confidence is to our  
Government, and it would be  
injurious to his Majesty's Wif-  
dom and Prudence, to suppose  
he would Support a Minister  
on any other Foot; and that  
Minister who trusts to so  
weak a Foundation leans on a  
Reed shaken by the Wind;  
D and

and the strongest Argument to prove it, is the Example of your Lordship.

As for my part, Age and Infirmary will not permit me to think any more of reassuming the Reins of Government, but as for your Lordship, whose active Spirit is still in its Bloom, I hope attended with good Inclination to serve the Publick, you may with Time and Management, after  
your

your Eclipse, break forth and  
 Shine again; for throwing  
 your small knot of Friends  
 into the Scale, may make you  
 become a necessary Ballance,  
 a few Drops of Water perfectly  
 connected, becomes a precious  
 Pearl in the Sea, and  
 like an able Sailor you may  
 now and then throw out an  
 empty Barrel for the Whales  
 to play with, until you get  
 safely into Port, and bring

back with you that valuable  
Treasure Experience.

And now my Lord, as this  
Recess from the busy World  
gives us Time to think coolly,  
how vain is the Pursuit of Ima-  
ginary Good to ourselves,  
when we are Sacrificing our  
better selves, I mean Posterity.

You that are a Father,  
must feel a Father's Affection,  
what Comfort can we have to  
think we leave our Children  
rich



rich born Slaves, to deceive the Best of Masters, by endeavouring to make him forfeit the natural Love and Affection of his People, who are now ready to spend their last drop of Blood and Wealth in his Service.

These Reflections will have due Influence when consider'd, and will make you Ador'd by those who now Hate and Despise you; and will make this

this Country an Example to  
the World, and convince  
Mankind that the Interest of  
the King, People, and Mi-  
nister is the same.

*F I N I S.*



